August 25, 2014

Mr. Richard Karl, Director
Superfund Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Status of Allied Disposal Site, OU-1, in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Karl:

I am writing to you to express both my appreciation as well as ongoing concerns regarding a variety of issues at the Allied Superfund Site (OU-1) located here in Kalamazoo. We finally have some dates to meet regarding emerging technology questions I have been asking about for ***over a year now***. I am looking forward to our discussions on Thursday, September 18, 2104 at your offices in Chicago. While I have not been happy about the pace of setting up this meeting, I am encouraged to hear about what technologies the USEPA is actively using to treat PCBs. It is critical that we continue to look at permanent solutions to the PCB issues at OU-1 and within the Kalamazoo River watershed.

There is also some time scheduled for your staff to visit the offices of PulverDryer Technologies in Battle Creek, Michigan. This opportunity to see a dewatering technology that also uses USEPA-approved method of pyrollysis for destruction of PCBs is critical as we jointly seek the best solutions available for the Allied Disposal Site. I am eager to be involved in the creative thinking needed to include the PulverDryer technology as part of the solution at Allied Disposal Site.

I have been talking with staff and have been hearing very encouraging reports regarding ongoing discussions with your staff and the State of Michigan regarding some mutually agreeable options for the Allied Superfund Site. Staff has indicated that these discussions have been open and frank and have been geared toward finding a common goal for the site that addresses redevelopment needs along with economic realities.

However, staff has informed me that a recent discussion on ***August 18, 2014*** that included legal staff from USEPA-Region 5 was much less helpful in seeking these mutually agreeable solutions. It is my hope that any issues - technical, administrative, financial or legal – can be properly addressed with a common end goal defined and agreed upon. Attempting to provide routine, historical solutions to the Allied Site is outside of the ongoing cooperative efforts to find viable redevelopment solutions for the Site that is also protective of the environment and City residents.

I would request that USEPA-Region 5 staff ensure that all critical team members working on this project are actively working to ensure that these mutually agreed upon goals are adequately acknowledged, discussed and implemented.

I look forward to our meeting on September 18 ***in Chicago and our site visit to PulverDryer in Battle Creek on September 19***. I will ***also*** be keeping in contact with City staff to ensure that the ongoing discussions continue to be positive and productive.

Supporting the Journey,

Bobby J. Hopewell
Mayor